

## **Minutes of the Health & Human Services Board & Committee**

**Thursday, February 25, 2010**

Chairs Paulson and Farrell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Supervisors Duane Paulson, Bill Zaborowski, Gilbert Yerke, Jim Jeskewitz, Pauline Jaske, Janel Brandtjen, and Kathleen Cummings.

**Board Members Present:** Citizen Members Dennis Farrell (Chair), Joe Vitale, and JoAnn Weidman; and Supervisors Duane Paulson, Janel Brandtjen, Jim Jeskewitz, and Paul Decker.

**Absent:** Citizen Members Dr. Peter Geiss, Flor Gonzalez, and Michael O'Brien.

**Also Present:** Chief of Staff Mark Mader, Legislative Policy Advisor Sarah Spaeth, Public Health Supervisor Irene Ridgeman, Workforce Development Center (WDC) Operations Coordinator Beth Norris, Waukesha Housing Authority Director Dave Cappon, Senior Financial Analyst Clara Daniels, Health & Human Services Deputy Director Don Maurer, and Adaptive Community Approach Program (ACAP) Associate Director Doreen Eicher. Recorded by Mary Pedersen, County Board Office.

### **Committee Agenda Items**

#### **Approve Minutes of 2-11-10**

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Yerke to approve the minutes of February 11. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **Chair Paulson's Executive Committee Report of 2-15-10**

- An outside group presented their Housing Trust Fund proposal for affordable housing.

#### **Announcements**

Paulson advised the Committee will not meet on March 25. Currently, the Board/Committee meeting chart and the County Board calendar for March lists this as a combined meeting date. However, only the Board will meet on March 25.

### **Board Agenda Items**

#### **Approve Minutes of 1-28-10**

MOTION: Vitale moved, second by Decker to approve the minutes of January 28. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **Correspondence**

Weidmann advised of a newsletter from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation on a voluntary accreditation program for public health departments. Across the nation, 30 are being tested for this program and the County will likely need to address this in the future. The newsletter also

highlighted recent outbreaks in foodborne illnesses linked to contaminated meat that led to recalls. In addition, it was reported that the H1N1 virus has affected 57 million people in the United States resulting in 12,000 deaths.

### **Advisory Committee Reports**

Vitale said the Child & Family Services Advisory Committee is working on their needs list. Greg Jonas of the City of Waukesha police department spoke to them about Internet safety.

Farrell noted the Mental Health Advisory Committee is also working on their needs presentation.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Farrell advised a presentation will be held in April on public health statistics in the Menomonee Falls/Lannon area.

Decker referred to today's Journal/Sentinel article titled "Study finds uptick in strokes among younger people." He suggested the Board review short and long term affects on County resources that could result from this trend.

### **Combined Agenda Items**

#### **H1N1 Update**

Ridgeman distributed a report from the new Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System which included statistics on the H1N1 virus for Waukesha County from 4-25-09 through 2-20-10. She indicated there have been 1,101 confirmed and probable cases of H1N1 which included 12 pregnant individuals, 81 hospitalizations, and one death. It was noted that 71% were under the age of 20. Ridgeman said at this time, the disease is almost non-existent; there have been only seven H1N1 cases since the beginning of the year. A total of 15,085 H1N1 vaccinations were given by Public Health staff.

#### **Waukesha Housing Authority Activities and Section 8 Voucher Waiting List**

Cappon explained the Section 8 Voucher Program provides rental assistance to income eligible families who will, or are renting a privately owned apartment in the City or County of Waukesha. The household pays 30% or 40% of the adjusted gross monthly income for rent. Participation by the property owner is voluntary. The Public Housing Program/Saratoga Heights is an apartment building for the elderly, handicapped, and disabled. Rent is based on 30% of their monthly adjusted gross income. There are also scattered sites family housing units which are located throughout the City and County of Waukesha and includes three to five bedroom single family units, two to three bedroom duplexes, and two bedroom four-plex family units. Each household pays approximately 30% of their adjusted gross income for rent.

Due to the financial crisis, there have been delays in funding and issues with flat funding rates. The Waukesha Housing Authority did have enough money in reserves to address some of their issues. The regular wait list saw an increase due to fears of people losing their jobs. About 50% of those on the wait list are people who do not qualify or people with whom they lose contact. They are currently serving people that applied in September of 2007 – about a 2.5 year backlog. The typical wait prior to the financial crisis was 18 months. Cappon said there are currently about 2,800 people

on the wait list and by the end of March, about 100 households will be out looking for an apartment with their rent voucher. Additional federal funding is expected in October so even though they had to reduce the size of the program and the average rent subsidy is higher than it was a year ago, they will probably be able to add 50 to 75 of those households back to the program. Efforts are underway to reform this program and resolve problems with the funding cycle and how it is funded.

Cappon indicated a great program started last month with the Mental Health Center. Grant funding was applied for and awarded to provide 23 vouchers to homeless individuals with mental illness leaving Jeremy House.

The Family Unification Voucher Program assists people trying to keep their children in the household instead of foster care. Based on increased need, they will apply for an additional 25 vouchers. Cappon advised they partner with the Department of Health & Human Services in providing this program. They also partner with the Up Connection and other non-profit organizations, sometimes with help from the United Way, for additional program components.

Cappon noted the average tenant resides in their housing three to five years and then they move because services are no longer needed. Of the 152 family units of housing, typically 12 households have no employment income. At this time, there are 91 households.

Cappon said he employs 12 staff members. They will be moving into the old fire station on Arcadian Avenue. Stimulus funds were awarded to help transform this building into a state-of-the-art building using green technology.

#### **Update on Workforce Development Center (WDC) Activities**

Norris advised the WDC includes about 100 staff and nine agencies. The Center provides workforce services for career planning, career changing, job search assistance, computer labs, resume help, workshops, and public assistance support. In 2009, 43,000 people came to the Center, a 38% increase from the year before. Individuals receiving state unemployment benefits are required to come to the Center, a primary reason for the increase. Clients of today are typically better educated, more qualified, and have long-term work experience. Norris said their number one challenge is the economy. Pressures on training related services exist as funding has not increased with demand. Norris advised her main goal is to develop a culture of expertise with each agency and staff member. Her focus for the future is educational attainment, of which Waukesha County is well poised. Norris advised the WDC is celebrating the Center/County partnership, whereby she invited the Committee and Board to come to the Center between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. tomorrow.

#### **Update On Caseload in the Children & Family Division Due to the Elimination of One Supervisory Position in the 2009 Budget**

Maurer noted a supervisory position in the Children & Family Division was eliminated in the 2009 budget. Two supervisors remain in the division: one had eight staff members and now has 11, and the other had seven and now has nine. The State standard for the supervisor to worker ratio is one to six. Supervisors are responsible for reviewing cases, ensuring standards are being kept, and that we are appropriately responding and working on cases in a timely manner. Prior to the elimination, one supervisor who had 96 cases now has 116, and the other who had 84 cases now has 103. In addition, one supervisor was responsible for monitoring six contract services and now monitors ten, and the other monitored three and now monitors five. Examples of contract services include the

Women's Center and parenting classes. Vitale asked what has this done to the quality of work. Maurer said staff are still doing a good job which he explained further. Maurer advised the Committee and Board recently heard a report on the State's quality of service review which gave the division good marks. The reduction last year was not isolated; this was part of a seven-year process of reducing staff while minimizing impacts as much as possible. Maurer did say they are not as strong as they were seven years ago.

Vitale expressed concerns with Maurer's figures and with things falling through the cracks. Maurer said we have to take this into context. Last year, they added \$1 million in levy which is a lot compared to most other areas in the County. Concerns are often relayed to Madison as this is really a State issue, not a County issue. Maurer praised the current staff but worried about the baby boomer effect whereby losing quality, experienced staff.

**Tour Adaptive Community Approach Program (ACAP), 121 Wisconsin Ave, Waukesha**

The Committee and Board went on a tour of the building that houses ACAP. A quorum of the Board would not be attending and therefore, they adjourned prior to the tour.

MOTION: Brandtjen moved, second by Weidmann to adjourn the Board at 2:52 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Jeskewitz, Zaborowski, Weidmann, Vitale, and Decker left the meeting at 2:52 p.m. and did not attend the tour.

MOTION: Brandtjen moved, second by Cummings to adjourn the Committee at 4:15 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Recorded by Mary Pederson

Approved on \_\_\_\_\_  
Date